

**DETERMINING POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY AND RANKING CRITERIA**  
**Grazing Lands (Mesquite) Statewide Natural Resource Concern**  
**EQIP Outside Local Emphasis Areas**

The following guide is provided for determining those applications having potential to earn environmental points in EQIP Grazing Lands (Mesquite) Natural Resource Concern outside of local emphasis areas. It is to be used by USDA personnel in understanding the priority resource issues being considered in 2003 and where appropriate to aid clients in determining whether their particular resource concern(s) would receive ranking points in this year's evaluation.

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tracts: \_\_\_\_\_

Assisted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Assisting Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT – Do not use for ranking

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1) Does the offer include planned treatment of a high, medium, and/or low priority infestation of Mesquite, over the allowable for the ecological/range site, <b>and</b> will grazing management be implemented to meet the Prescribed Grazing (528A) standard on the entire operating unit within the contract period (check and score all that apply)? Yes ____ No ____ If <b>No</b> , the offer is <b>NOT</b> eligible for environmental ranking points under the EQIP Grazing Lands (Mesquite) Natural Resource Concern. However, it may be eligible for consideration and ranking under another statewide natural resource concern.		Score
	<input type="checkbox"/> High Priority      10 x acres affected <input type="checkbox"/> Medium Priority      5 x acres affected <input type="checkbox"/> Low Priority      1 x acres affected	
2) Does the offer include over-utilized grassland due to poor grazing distribution/management prior to planned implementation of a prescribed grazing system? Yes ____ No ____ If <b>Yes</b> , score an additional 10 points per acre only on the land that the grazing management change will be implemented within the contract period.		Score
	10 x acres	
3) Does the offer include planned treatment for all resource concerns to the quality criteria level, in addition to the primary concern, for all land uses on the entire operating unit? Yes ____ No ____ If <b>Yes</b> , score an additional 50 points per acre only when <b>all</b> resource issues for the entire operating unit are addressed in the conservation plan and will be implemented within the contract period.		Score
	50 x acres	
4) Does planned treatment include protection of existing perennial &/or intermittent streams from degradation (application of conservation buffer practices)? Yes ____ No ____ If <b>Yes</b> , score an additional <b>50 points/acre</b> for establishing a new buffer &/or <b>20 points/acre</b> for protecting existing buffers.		Score
	and/or 50 x acres 20 x acres	

**TOTAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date